

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MARCH 9, 2021

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at 6:30PM.

Council President Jackson led those present in the flag salute.

Council President Jackson called for a moment of silence to remember the service and sacrifices of the armed service members who protect our Nation and the first responders who protect our neighborhoods. Council President Jackson said that there is very sad news that a Morris Hills family from Montville has suffered the loss of a girl and asked that they be included in this moment of silence.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

Present: Council Members Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, and Jackson.

Present from Administration: Mayor Michael Puzio, Attorney Iacofano, Attorney Perrone, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, and Ms. Allison Ferrante.

Council President Jackson stated, "Please be advised that all electronic/remote meetings of the Township Council held on Webex are recorded. All members of the public will be provided the opportunity to speak. During any "public hearing" or "open to the public" sections of the meeting, the Township Clerk will unmute each member of the public and ask if they wish to speak. As per Rockaway Township Code 2-5.14, any person desiring to address the Council shall first seek recognition by the presiding officer; and upon recognition by the chair, the person shall give their name and address for the record. Unless further time is granted by the Council, they shall limit their statement to five minutes. Statements shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. A Councilman shall not direct any question to a speaker addressing the Council, except through the presiding officer. In addition to speaking on the record during Council Meetings, members of the public may submit questions and comments to the Council by emailing questions@rockawaytownship.org by the end of the "Open to the Public" session."

Council President Jackson stated, "This meeting was advertised in the Daily Record on January 9, 2021 and the Star Ledger on January 11, 2021, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
February 23, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Council Vice President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to approve the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO BE WITHDRAWN:

O-21-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 54-30.67, ENTITLED “RMFO-12 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT”, OF CHAPTER 54, ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT”, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP ROCKAWAY TO CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

Motion was made by Council Member Kritz, seconded by Council Vice President Sackett, to withdraw Ordinance O-21-05.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

O-21-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT,” SECTION 54-47 ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIASON” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Vice President Sackett, to **TABLE** Ordinance O-21-06 to the March 23, 2021 meeting to be considered for second reading.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Robert Gibbons, 8 McVickers Ln., Mendham, NJ. Mr. Gibbons inquired about licensing for medical cannabis with the Township. Mayor Puzio responded that the Business Administrator had already attempted to respond to his questions and will get the information to him promptly.

Eleanor Hoffman, 204 West Lake Shore Dr. Ms. Hoffman asked why the gazebo at Parks Lake is closed. Mayor Puzio stated that there were issues with people congregating and defacing the gazebo and with the pandemic still a concern the Township made the decision to close it down temporarily.

Jim Warters, 48 Seneca Ave. Mr. Warters said that this is the first time in recent years that the Township has been forced to increase taxes in order to pay for frivolous lawsuits by a person who no longer needs to be named. He knows that the increase is for a couple of other items as well, but that principally it has to address the untoward activities of this person who is breaching his fiduciary responsibilities to the tax payers.

ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:

O-21-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT,” SECTION 45 ENTITLED “FAIR SHARE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Kelley, to introduce Ordinance O-21-07.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-08 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT,” SECTION 48 ENTITLED “MANDATORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDE” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-21-08.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-09 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT,” SECTION 54-30.52 ENTITLED “R-B MFO REGIONAL BUSINESS MULTIFAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-09.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.53 ENTITLED “B-2 MFO HIGHWAY BUSINESS MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT”

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-21-10.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.66 ENTITLED “RMFO-10 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT”

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-21-11.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED “LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A

NEW SECTION 54-30.67 ENTITLED "RMFO-12 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT"

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-12.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-13 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.68 ENTITLED "RMFO-12A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT"

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-13.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.69 ENTITLED "RMFO-15 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT"

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-21-14.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-15 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.70 ENTITLED "RMFO-15A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT"

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-15.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

ORDINANCE TO INTRODUCE:

O-21-19 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Salberg, to introduce Ordinance O-21-19.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS:

R-21-46 A RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to amend the capital line budget for Peterson field improvements to add \$200,000.

Mayor Puzio asked Ms. Seger to provide an explanation. Ms. Seger stated that the preliminary numbers for work on P1 and P2 are indicating that an increase is needed. Ms. Palmieri said that this does not affect the municipal tax rate, it is an increase to capital.

Council Member Kelley asked if there was prior discussion on this and that he still has not received plans, and why wasn't it shared with Council beforehand in order to make a justifiable vote. Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Council Member Kelley asked about reopening the tab one for the budget process. Ms. Clipperton advised that this isn't necessary and wouldn't change adding funds to a line item.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to open the legal tab, make the increases necessary and vote, and then close the tab. No one seconded.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Salberg, to approve Resolution R-21-46.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

R-21-47 ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to approve Resolution R-21-47.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:

O-21-16 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND STUDIES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$175,525 THEREFOR CONSTITUTING PROCEEDS OF A GRANT FROM THE HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-16.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-17 BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,852,500, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,460,700 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-21-17.

Council Member Kelley asked what the various improvements are. Ms. Palmieri said that this is the capital plan that was previously discussed and that the Ordinance needs to be amended to show that the amount being appropriated has been increased.

Motion was made by Council President Jackson to amend the ordinance to increase \$2,852,500 to \$3,052,500 and \$2,460,700 to \$2,660,700.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Salberg, to amend his motion to approve the Ordinance as amended.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

O-21-18 BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$725,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$685,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to introduce Ordinance O-21-18.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-21-44 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#20-010 BLOCK 21909 LOT 17, KNOWN AS 8 WHITE MEADOW RD.

R-21-45 2021 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND ON: 24 RONALD AVE. BLOCK 22003 LOT 16

[R-21-48](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PRINCETON HYDRO FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,525.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW

[R-21-49](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTH RENEWAL OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

[R-21-50](#) RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KIMBERLY JOHNSON AS TAX ASSESSOR

[R-21-51](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY AND PATRICIA SEGER AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

[R-21-52](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPROPRIATE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP TO THE MORRIS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND FOR A 2021 GRANT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FORD-FAESCH MANOR HOUSE C.1772 OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

[R-21-53](#) A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TIME FOR THE PROTECTIONS PROVIDED BY RESOLUTION R-20-192 TO RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL SEWER SERVICE CUSTOMERS

[R-21-54](#) AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO BENECARD SERVICES, L.L.C. FOR THE TOWNSHIP'S PRESCRIPTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2021 THROUGH MAY 31, 2022

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Brookes, to remove R-21-50 and R-21-51, for separate votes and discussions.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Kelley, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Quinn)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Kelley, to approve R-21-44, R-21-45, R-21-48, R-21-49, R-21-52, R-21-53 and R-21-54.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Resolution R-21-50 discussion. Council Member Kelley asked about the salary increase over the next five years for the Tax Assessor. Council discussed.

Resolution R-21-51 discussion. Council Member Kelley asked if the current employment contract with the Business Administrator is expired and if there is a residency requirement that is being waived. Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Noon, to approve R-21-50.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to approve R-21-51.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor's Appointments:

Planning Board, Class IV (Unexpired 4-year term ending 12/31/2021):

Kathleen Platts

Planning Board, 2nd Alternate (Unexpired 2-year term ending 12/31/2021):

Rachael Brookes

Council Appointments:

Board of Adjustment – Full Member (Unexpired Term ending 12/31/2022):

Kathleen Platts

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Noon, to appoint Kathleen Platts as Board of Adjustment Full Member with an unexpired term ending 12/31/2022.

Council Member Kelley stated that there was a Class 4 position on the Planning Board that had been filled by a member of the Environmental Commission automatically. He asked if positions were adjusted accordingly with the elimination of the Environmental

Commission. Mayor Puzio said that he will check to see if the Township is in compliance and address as needed in the future.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to table this appointment. No one seconded.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS (COMBINED):

Council Member Noon reported that she attended the Board of Education meeting last week and that Kindergarten registration is in March and is running normally. She added that she had the pleasure of helping Girl Scouts achieve their democracy badge.

Council Member Brookes asked everyone to please keep the family from Morris Hills in their thoughts, noting that we all need to have good discussions with our kids and recognize that these times are very stressful. He thanked the police and EMTs for their response to an accident in front of his house which could have been a very bad situation.

Council Member Friedlander gave updates on the library and renovations of the study room. He continued that the Historical Society has plans to work on the Ford Faesch house. He said that the Board of Assessment Commissioners is getting Gene Garabrant up to speed. He also is looking forward to the next Farmers Market.

Council Member Kelley thanked the County DPW for fixing a drainage issue at Snake Hill and Green Pond Road. He asked people to support the Girl Scouts' cookie sale. He reminded everyone that Joy Weinreich of White Meadow Lake passed away two years ago and she was a pillar in the community. He continued by stating that he had recommended a virtual event for the Historical Society and that he hadn't heard back from them so asked Council Member Friedlander if he could bring it up. He said that he was concerned that a contract renewal was overlooked. He brought up a letter that was drafted by Ms. Smith, a former Council Woman, to Council Member Brookes that had concerns about the Public Safety Officer position. He raised concerns about a response by Mayor Puzio who had commented on prior Council Members not achieving anything meaningful and wasting money on legal services and noted that this budget has almost a \$500,000 increase.

Council Member Kritz reported that he had a meeting last week with administration to start and finalize a Sponsorship Committee and he's looking forward to what it can accomplish. He noted that lacrosse has started. He reminded all to be vigilant and that as things start to feel like they're going back to normal, we're not done yet and to please stay safe.

Council Member Quinn reported that they had a Recreation meeting that was cut short but that the Committee is reaching out to our seniors, the Challenger Program, and PAL to get these groups to be more inclusive. He said that they started looking ahead for Dial-A-Ride and Senior Services to get seniors out of their homes. He asked that everyone stay smart and safe. He said that he sees that many sports programs are getting up and running and that they are actively recruiting and in dire need of coaches. He ended by saying that there will be a Planning Board meeting in a week or two and he is glad that the appointment went through.

Council Member Salberg said that he has reached out to the administration about the emerald ash boring beetle pest issue and he thanked them for taking his concerns seriously. He stated that this infestation will have a real negative impact on our town and he doesn't want us to be caught off guard. He is concerned about trees along roadways in addition to trees on residents' properties. He also noted that the Township had a real spike in COVID cases and reminded everyone to stay safe and smart.

Council Vice President Sackett said that he wanted to correct Mr. Kelley as he has been in the construction industry for 21 years. He stated that the Clerk was delayed all day Friday dealing with Mr. Kelley's OPRA requests and that as a result the Council's meeting packets didn't go out until Saturday. He said that he was able to get his questions answered by reaching out to administration ahead of time. He commented that the Citizen's Recreation Committee met and that sports are starting up. He was interviewed by two Boy Scouts about local government recently to assist with their merit badges. He thanked Mr. Tabbot for helping an elderly couple in his ward with issues in getting their COVID vaccination.

Council President Jackson reported that he attended a regional Board of Education meeting where work is getting done to get children back in school. He went to the Farmers Market and said that it has a good amount of traffic, as does the mall. He encouraged everyone to stay safe and he is happy to see that everyone is wearing masks.

Mayor Puzio reported that Mr. Kelley makes false statements and has been making assaults on the Township for years. He noted that this is what a good Council looks like and that we're here to deliver good government and use tax dollars for improvement projects that will benefit the tax payers like Peterson fields. He responded to an earlier question about the re-introduction of the Affordable Housing ordinances and said that this was due to a procedural issue regarding noticing requirements. He said that there will be a pre-construction meeting soon for the basketball and tennis courts at Peterson fields. He also reported that there will be some improvements at the gazebo as well. He noted that residents have asked questions about Kings Road improvements including sewer lines and gas lines and that the Township will pave using the grant money after the improvements are done. He addressed COVID cases and said that he spoke with the Health Officer but that, although the increases are a concern, they are in line with other communities' increases. He emphasized that we need to act responsibly and take all the steps necessary to get rid of this disease. He ended by stating that he has been exploring options on how to get employees who want to get further education and that the Township may set up a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Elizabeth's to provide education at a discount.

Attorney Iacofano stated that he has no report.

Ms. Seger thanked everyone for their support and said that she is happy to answer their questions at any time.

Ms. Palmieri had no report.

Ms. Ferrante had no report.

Mr. Dyer had no report.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Noon, to adjourn this meeting at 8:09PM. All members unanimously agreed.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Clipperton
Municipal Clerk